

# PEE

The daring flames *peep* in, and faw from far  
The awful beauties of the sacred quire;  
But since it was prophand by civil war,  
Heav'n thought it fit to have it purg'd by fire. *Dryden.*

From each tree  
The feather'd people look down to *peep* on me. *Dryden.*  
Those remote and vast bodies were formed not merely to  
be *peep* at through an optick glass. *Bentley's Sermons.*

O my mule, just distance keep;  
Thou art a maid, and must not *peep*. *Prior.*  
In vain his little children *peeping* out  
Into the mingling storm, demand their fire. *Thomson.*

**PEEP.** *n. f.*  
1. First appearance: as, at the *peep* and first break of day.  
2. A fly look.  
Would not one think, the almanackmaker was crept out  
of his grave to take t'other *peep* at the stars. *Swift.*

**PEEPER.** *n. f.* Young chickens just breaking the shell.  
Dishes I chafe, though little, yet genteel;  
Snails the first course, and *peepers* crown the meal. *Bramst.*

**PEEPHOLE.** *n. f.* [*peep* and *hole*.] Hole through which  
**PEEPINGHOLE.** *n. f.* one may look without being discovered.  
By the *peepholes* in his crest,  
Is it not virtually confest,  
That there his eyes took distant aim. *Prior.*  
The fox spied him through a *peepinghole* he had found out  
to see what news. *L'Estrange.*

**PEER.** *n. f.* [*pair*, French.]  
1. Equal; one of the same rank.  
His *peers* upon this evidence  
Have found him guilty of high treason. *Shakefp.*  
Amongst a man's *peers*, a man shall be sure of familiarity;  
and therefore it is good a little to keep state. *Bacon.*  
Oh! what is man, great maker of mankind!  
That thou to him so great respect do'st bear!  
That thou adorn'st him with so bright a mind,  
Mak'st him a king, and ev'n an angel's *peer*. *Davies.*

2. One equal in excellence or endowments.  
In song he never had his *peer*,  
From sweet Cecilia down to chanticleer. *Dryden.*

3. Companion: fellow.  
He all his *peers* in beauty did surpass. *Fairy Queen.*  
If you did move to-night,  
In the dances, with what spight  
Of your *peers* you were beheld,  
That at every motion swell'd. *Benj. Johnson.*  
Who bear the bows were knights in Arthur's reign,  
Twelve they, and twelve the *peers* of Charlemagne. *Dryd.*

4. A nobleman: of nobility we have five degrees, who are all  
nevertheless called *peers*, because their essential privileges are  
the same.  
I see thee compact with thy kingdom's *peers*,  
That speak my salutation in their minds:  
Hail king of Scotland! *Shakefp. Macbeth.*  
King Henry's *peers* and chief nobility  
Destroy'd themselves, and lost the realm of France. *Shakefp.*  
Be just in all you say, and all you do;  
Whatever be your birth, you're sure to be  
A *peer* of the first magnitude to me. *Dryden.*

**TO PEE.** *v. n.* [*By contraction from appear*.]  
1. To come just in sight.  
As the sun breaks through the darkest clouds,  
So honour *peereth* in the meanest habit. *Bacon.*  
Yet a many of your horsemen *peer*,  
And gallop o'er the field. *Shakefp. Henry V.*  
Ev'n through the hollow eyes of death  
I spy life *peering*. *Shakefp.*  
See how his gorget *peers* above his gown,  
To tell the people in what danger he was. *Ben. Johnson.*  
Hell itself will pass away,  
And leave her dolorous mansion to the *peering* day. *Milt.*

2. To look narrowly; to *peep*.  
Now for a clod-like hare in form they *peer*,  
Now bolt and cudgel squirrels leap do move,  
Now the ambitious lark with mirror clear  
They catch, while he, fool! to himself makes love. *Sidn.*  
*Peering* in maps for ports, and *peers*, and roads,  
And every object that might make me fear  
Misfortune to my ventures. *Shakefp. Merch. of Venice.*

**PEERAGE.** *n. f.* [*pairie*, Fr. from *peer*.]  
1. The dignity of a *peer*.  
His friendships he to few confin'd;  
No fools of rank or mongrel breed,  
Who fain would pass for Lords indeed;  
Where titles give no right or power,  
And *peerage* is a wither'd flower. *Swift.*

2. The body of *peers*.  
Not only the penal laws are in force against papists, and  
their number is contemptible, but also the *peerage* and com-  
mons are excluded from parliament. *Dryden.*

**PEERDOM.** *n. f.* [*from peer*.] *Peerage.* *Ansforth.*

**PEERLESS.** *n. f.* [*female of peer*.] The lady of a *peer*; a wo-  
man ennobled.

# PEG

Statesman and patriot ply alike the stocks;  
*Peers* and butler share alike the box. *Pope.*

**PEERLESS.** *adj.* [*from peer*.] Unequalled; having no *peer*.  
I bind,  
On pain of punishment, the world to weat,  
We stand up *peerless*. *Shakefp.*

You,  
So perfect, and so *peerless*, are created  
Of every creature's best. *Shakefp. Tempest.*  
Her *peerless* feature, joined with her birth,  
Approves her fit for none, but for a king. *Shakefp.*  
Hesperus, that led  
The starry host, rode brightest; till the moon,  
Rising in clouded majesty, at length,  
Apparent queen, unveil'd her *peerless* light. *Milton.*  
Such music worthiest were to blaze  
The *peerless* light of her immortal praise,  
Whole lullie leads us. *Milton.*  
Her dress, her shape, her matchless grace,  
Were all observ'd, as well as heav'nly face;  
With such a *peerless* majesty the stands,  
As in that day she took the crown. *Dryden.*

**PEERLESSNESS.** *n. f.* [*from peerless*.] Universal superiority.

**PEEVISH.** *adj.* [*This word Junius*, with more reason than he  
commonly discovers, supposes to be formed by corruption from  
*perverse*; *Skinner* rather derives it from *beeish*, as we lay  
*waspsish*.] Petulant; waspish; easily offended; irritable;  
iracible; soon angry; perverse; morose; querulous; full of  
expressions of discontent; hard to please.  
For what can breed more *peevish* incongruities,  
Than man to yield to female lamentations. *Sidney.*  
She is *peevish*, fullen, froward,  
Proud, disobedient, stubborn, lacking duty. *Shakefp.*  
If thou hast the metal of a king,  
Being wrong'd as we are by this *peevish* town,  
Turn thou the mouth of thy artillery,  
As we will ours, against these saucy walls. *Shakefp.*  
I will not presume  
To send such *peevish* tokens to a king. *Shakefp.*  
Those deserve to be doubly laugh'd at, that are *peevish* and  
angry for nothing to no purpose. *L'Estrange.*  
Neither will it be fatire or *peevish* invective to affirm,  
that infidelity and vice are not much diminished. *Swift.*

**PEEVISHLY.** *adv.* [*from peevish*.] Angrily; querulously;  
morosely.  
He was so *peevishly* opinative and proud, that he would  
neither ask nor hear the advice of any. *Hayward.*

**PEEVISHNESS.** *n. f.* [*from peevish*.] Irrascibility; querulosity;  
fretfulness; perverseness.  
Some miscarriages in government might escape through the  
*peevishness* of others, envying the publick should be managed  
without them. *King Charles.*  
It will be an unpardonable, as well as childish *peevishness*,  
if we undervalue the advantages of our knowledge, and neg-  
lect to improve it. *Locke.*

You may find  
Nothing but acid left behind:  
From passion you may then be freed,  
When *peevishness* and spleen succeed. *Swift.*

**PEG.** *n. f.* [*pegge*, Teutonic].  
1. A piece of wood driven into a hole, which does the office of  
an iron nail.  
Solid bodies foreflew rain; as boxes and *pegs* of wood,  
when they draw and wind hard. *Bacon.*  
The teeth are about thirty in each jaw; all of them clavi-  
culares or *peg* teeth, not much unlike the tusks of a mastiff.  
*Grew's Anatomy.*

If he pretends to be cholerick, we shall treat him like his  
little friend Dicky, and hang him upon a *peg* till he comes to  
himself. *Addison's Guardian*, N<sup>o</sup> 108.  
The *pegs* and nails in a great building, though they are but  
little valued in themselves, are absolutely necessary to keep the  
whole frame together. *Addison's Spectator.*  
A finer petticoat can neither make you richer, more vir-  
tuous or wise, than if it hung upon a *peg*. *Swift.*

2. The pins of an instrument in which the strings are strained.  
You are well tun'd now; but I'll let down  
The *pegs* that make this music. *Shakefp. Othello.*

3. To take a *peg* lover; to depress; to sink; perhaps from re-  
laxing the cords of musical instruments.  
Remember how in arms and politics,  
We still have work'd all your holy tricks,  
Trepann'd your party with intrigue,  
And took your grandees down a *peg*. *Hudibras.*

4. The nickname of Margaret.  
To *PEG.* *v. a.* To fasten with a *peg*.  
I will rend an oak,  
And *peg* thee in his knotty entrails, 'till  
Thou'st howl'd away twelve winters. *Shakefp. Tempest.*  
Taking the shoots of the past spring, and *pegging* them  
down in very rich earth, by that time twelvemonth they will  
be ready to remove.  *Evelyn's Calendar.*

# PEL

**PELF.** *n. f.* [*In low Latin, peltra*, not known whence derived;  
*peltra*, in Norman, is *frillery*.] Money; riches.  
The thought of this doth pals all worldly *pel*. *Sidney.*

Hardy elf,  
Thou dar'st view my direful countenance,  
I read thee rash and heedless of thyself,  
To trouble my still seat and heaps of precious *pel*. *Fairy Queen.*

Immortal gods, I crave no *pel*;  
I pray for no man but myself. *Shakefp.peare.*  
He call'd his money in;  
But the prevailing love of *pel*  
Soon split him on the former self:  
He put it out again. *Dryden's Horace.*  
To the poor if he refus'd his *pel*,  
He us'd them full as kindly as himself. *Swift.*

**PELLICAN.** *n. f.* [*pellicanus*, low Lat. *pellican*, Fr.]  
There are two sorts of *pelicans*; one lives upon the water  
and feeds upon fish; the other keeps in deserts, and feeds  
upon serpents and other reptiles: the *pellican* has a peculiar  
tenderness for its young; it generally places its nest upon a  
craggy rock: the *pellican* is supposed to admit its young to  
suck blood from its breast. *Calmet.*

Should discarded fathers  
Have this little mercy on their flesh;  
'Twas this flesh begot those *pellican* daughters. *Shakefp.*  
The *pellican* hath a beak broad and flat, like the flice of  
apothecaries. *Hakewill on Providence.*

**PELLET.** *n. f.* [*from pila*, Lat. *pelote*, Fr.]  
1. A little ball.  
That which is fold to the merchants, is made into little  
*pellets*, and sealed. *Sandys.*  
I dress'd with little *pellets* of lint. *Wise man's Surgery.*

2. A bullet; a ball.  
The force of gunpowder hath been ascribed to rarefaction  
of the earthy substance into flame, and so followeth a dilata-  
tion; and therefore, left two bodies should be in one place,  
there must needs also follow an expulsion of the *pellet* or  
blowing up of the mine: but these are ignorant speculations;  
for flame, if there were nothing else, will be suffocated with  
any hard body, such as a *pellet* is, or the barrel of a gun; so  
as the hard body would kill the flame. *Bacon.*  
A cube or *pellet* of yellow wax as much as half the spirit  
of wine, burnt only eighty-seven pulses. *Bacon.*  
How shall they reach us in the air with those *pellets* they  
can hardly roll upon the ground. *L'Estrange.*  
In a shooting trunk, the longer it is to a certain limit, the  
more forcibly the air passes and drives the *pellet*. *Ray.*

**PELLETED.** *adj.* [*from pellet*.] Consisting of bullets.  
My brave Egyptians all,  
By the discarding of this *pelleted* storm, *Shakefp.peare.*

**PELLICLE.** *n. f.* [*pellicula*, Lat.]  
1. A thin skin.  
After the discharge of the fluid, the *pellicle* must be broke.  
*Sharp's Surgery.*

2. It is often used for the film which gathers upon liquors im-  
pregnated with salts or other substances, and evaporated by  
heat.

**PELLITORY.** *n. f.* [*parietaria*, Lat.] An herb.  
The *pellitory* hath an apetalous flower, whose flower cup is  
divided into four parts, which is sometimes bell-shaped like a  
funnel, with four stamina or threads surrounding the pointal,  
which becomes for the most part an oblong seed, surrounded  
by the flower cup; to which may be added, the flowers are  
produced from the wings of the leaves. *Miller.*

**PELLEL.** *n. f.* [*pellet melle*, Fr.] Confusedly; tumultuously;  
one among another.  
When we have dash'd them to the ground,  
Then desic each other; and *pell mell*  
Make work upon ourselves. *Shakefp. King John.*  
Never yet did insurrection want  
Such moody beggars, starving for a time  
Of *pell mell* havock and confusion.  
He knew when to fall on *pell mell*,  
To fall back and retreat as well. *Hudibras.*

**PELLS.** *n. f.* [*pellis*, Lat.]  
Clerk of the *pelis*, an officer belonging to the exchequer,  
who enters every teller's bill into a parchment roll called *pellis*  
*acceptorum*, the roll of receipts; and also makes another roll  
called *pellis exituum*, a roll of the disbursements. *Bailey.*

**PELLUCID.** *adj.* [*pellucidus*, Lat.] Clear; transparent;  
not opaque; not dark.  
The colours are owing to the intermixture of foreign matter  
with the proper matter of the stone: this is the case of agates  
and other coloured stones, the colours of several whereof may  
be extracted, and the bodies rendered as *pellucid* as crystal,  
without sensibly damaging the texture. *Woodward.*  
If water be made warm in any *pellucid* vessel emptied of  
air, the water in the vacuum will bubble and boil as vehe-  
ment as it would in the open air in a vessel set upon the fire,  
till it conceives a much greater heat. *Newton's Opticks.*

# PEN

**PELLUCIDITY.** *n. f.* [*from pellucid*.] Transparency; clear-  
**PELLUCIDNESS.** *n. f.* [*from pellucid*.] Transparency; clear-  
ness; not opacity.  
The air is a clear and pellucid menstruum, in which the  
insensible particles of dissolved matter float, without troubling  
the *pellucidity* of the air; when on a sudden by a precipitation  
they gather into visible misty drops that make clouds. *Locke.*  
We consider their *pellucidness* and the vast quantity of light,  
that passes through them without reflection. *Keil.*

**PELT.** *n. f.* [*from pellis*, Lat.]  
1. Skin; hide.  
The camels hair is taken for the skin or *pelt* with the hair  
upon it. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*  
A scabby tetter on their *pelts* will stick,  
When the raw rain has pierc'd them to the quick. *Dryden.*

2. The quarry of a hawk all torn.  
**PELT-MONGER.** *n. f.* [*pellis*, Lat. *pelt* and *monger*.] A dealer  
in raw hides.  
To *PELT.* *v. a.* [*poltern*, German, *Skinner*; contracted from  
*pellet*, Mr. Lye.] It is generally used of something thrown,  
rather with teasing frequency than destructive violence.

1. To strike with something thrown.  
Poor naked wretches whereof'er you are  
That bide the *pelting* of this pitiless storm!  
How shall your houseless heads and unfed sides,  
Your loop'd and window'd raggedness defend you. *Shakefp.*  
Do but stand upon the foaming shore,  
The chiding billows seem to *pelt* the clouds. *Shakefp.*  
No zealous brother there would want a stone  
To maul us cardinals, and *pelt* pope Joan. *Dryden.*  
Obscure persons have insulted men of great worth, and  
*pelting* them from coverts with little objections. *Atterbury.*  
The whole empire could hardly subdue me, and I might  
easily with stones *pelt* the metropolis to pieces. *Gulliver.*

2. To throw; to cast.  
My Phillis me with *pelting* apples plies,  
Then tripping to the woods the wanton hies. *Dryden.*

**PELTING.** *adj.* This word in *Shakefp.peare* signifies, I know not  
why, mean; paltry; pitiful.  
Could great men thunder, Jove could ne'er be quiet;  
For every *pelting* petty officer  
Would use his heav'n for thunder. *Shakefp.peare.*  
Fogs falling in the land,  
Have every *pelting* river made so proud,  
That they have overborn their continents. *Shakefp.*  
They from sheepcotes and poor *pelting* villages  
Enforce their charity. *Shakefp.*  
A tenement or *pelting* farm. *Shakefp.*

**PELVIS.** *n. f.* [*Latin*.] The lower part of the belly.  
**PEN.** *n. f.* [*penna*, Latin].  
1. An instrument of writing.  
Never durst poet touch a *pen* to write,  
Until his ink were temper'd with love's sighs. *Shakefp.*  
Eternal deities!  
Who write whatever time shall bring to pass,  
With *pens* of Adamant on plates of brass. *Dryden.*  
He takes the papers, lays them down again;  
And, with unwilling fingers, tries the *pen*. *Dryden.*  
I can, by designing the letters, tell what new idea it shall  
exhibit the next moment, barely by drawing my *pen* over it,  
which will neither appear, if my hands stand still; or though  
I move my *pens*, if my eyes be shut. *Locke.*

2. Feather.  
The *pens* that did his pinnions bind,  
Were like main-yards with flying canvas lin'd. *Fairy Queen.*

3. Wing; though even here it may mean feather.  
Feather'd soon and fledg'd,  
They summ'd their *pens*; and soaring th' air sublime,  
With clang despis'd the ground. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*

4. [From penna, Saxon.] A small inclosure; a coop.  
My father stole two geese out of a *pen*. *Shakefp.*  
The cook was ordered to dress capons for supper, and take  
the belt in the *pen*. *L'Estrange.*  
She in *pens* his flocks will fold. *Dryden's Horace.*  
Ducks in thy ponds, and chickens in thy *pens*,  
And be thy turkeys num'rous as thy hens. *King.*  
The gather'd flocks  
Are in the wattled *pen* innumerable pres'd,  
Head above head. *Thomson's Summer.*

**TO PEN.** *v. a.* [*pennan* and *pinban*, Saxon.]  
1. To coop; to shut up; to incage; to imprison in a narrow  
place.  
Away with her,  
And *pen* her up. *Shakefp. Cymbeline.*  
My heavy son  
Private in his chamber *pens* himself. *Shakefp.*  
The plaster alone would *pen* the humour already contained  
in the part, and forbid new humour. *Bacon.*  
As when a prowling wolf,  
Whom hunger drives to seek new haunt for prey,  
Watching where shepherds *pen* their flocks at eve